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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Philip's Episcopal Church of Trenton, Missouri, faces east from a small triangular lot, surrounded by the town's business district. The small, rectangular, one-story structure rests on a half-basement and is marked by a high gable on the primary facade, a clerestoried chancel with projecting polygonal apse and locally crafted windows of colored cathedral glass, set deep within its massive walls.

Over-all dimensions

At its widest points, St. Philip's Church measures 56 feet by 36 feet. The height of the building at the crest of the roof is 33-1/2 feet.

Construction materials and colors

St. Philip's Church is constructed of native grey quarry-faced limestone, laid in regular courses to form one-foot-thick walls and foundation. Gables on the west are covered with narrow, horizontal planks of pine, which are stained dark brown.

Roofs

The high-pitched roof of intersecting gables descends in a series of three levels from a central ridge roof over the nave of the church, to the more narrow chancel roof three feet below it. A semi-polygonal roof at a level two feet below the chancel roof extends over the church's apse. To the west, intersecting the chancel roof at right angles, is another ridge roof placed over the sanctuary. Roofs of the vestibule and the organ chamber, flanking the east facade, are covered by flat roofs. All roofs are sheathed in red asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises on the south facade at the intersection of the sanctuary wing and the main building.

Primary facade

The primary (east) facade is flanked on the north by a low, square vestibule topped with a flat roof. The vestibule contains the primary entrance to the structure, a doubleleaf door, constructed of narrow vertical planks and painted a deep red. A brown-painted relief, its lancet design an echo of the detailing of the windows, has been applied on each leaf. The door, with a two-light transom of colored cathedral glass and a limestone lintel, is approached by a series of rock-faced limestone steps leading to a stoop porch. The primary facade rises to a steep parapet gable, rimmed by a rock-faced coping with a stone cross set at its apex. Three lancet arched windows are set into its thick wall, and a small roundel is placed above the center window. All windows on the church have corbel arches with triangular keystones.

South facade

The south facade is abutted on the north by a small steep gabled wing, which projects forward slightly from the main building. It contains a four-light, rectangular window of colored glass and the secondary entrance to the church within a framed enclosure that is covered with stained, rough-sawn vertical planks and capped by a sloping roof of red asphalt shingles. This enclosed wooden stairway leads from the sacristy to the

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exterior and the basement. The remaining portion of the south facade presents four regularly spaced lancet-arched windows set in the quarry-faced walls of the main building.

North facade

The north facade of St. Philip's Church presents three lancet-arched windows and is flanked by the projecting vestibule on the east, which contains a similar window, and at the opposite end, a low square organ chamber with a small, four-light rectangular window. Two rectangular clerestory windows of colored cathedral glass open into the chancel area.

West facade

The west facade is distinguished by its center semi-polygonal apse showing a rectangular four-light basement window in each of its three sides, aligned three feet above the ground. The glass in these windows, unlike that of the rest of the structure, is clear. A rectangular four-light window of colored glass is set at a higher level to the south of the apse. The semi-polygonal roof of the apse abuts the larger gable of the chancel, that in turn is connected to the gable of the nave. The gable areas on this facade are constructed of narrow horizontal planks of wood, stained a dark brown.

INTERIOR

The church has a two-level half-basement on the west, under the chancel and apse. Now used for storage, it served at one time as a Sunday School classroom. The basement's lower level houses the original coal-burning furnace, which, converted now to gas, still heats the building.

Entrance to the church is made through a small, square vestibule which opens in the northeast corner of the nave. A wide central aisle, carpeted in red and containing two embellished iron heating grills is flanked on each side by the original wooden pews with knee rests. Both the ceiling and the floor are constructed of narrow tongue-and groove planking, stained a dark brown and laid running east to west toward the chancel. Walls of the nave are of plaster, painted an off-white color, while the baseboards and woodwork are dark brown. The nave is illuminated by modern hanging fixtures of brass. The chancel is reached by four steps and is recessed behind a high pointed archway. Flanking the steps is a carved oak pulpit and a panelled frontal, resting on a railing of narrow vertical planking. The pointed chancel archway is flanked by a transomed entrance to the sacristy on the left and an opening on the right leading to the organ chamber. Both have gold colored curtains. A carved oak hymn board is placed to the right of the archway. The chancel's ceiling, as in the nave, is of stained tongue-and-groove planking, but its floor is carpeted in red. On the south

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wall, a heavy four-panel singleleaf door under a transom of colored glass opens into the sacristy.

The sanctuary is one step above the chancel, and separated from the rest of the church by a carved oak communion rail. The altar, set in the semi-polygonal apse, is ornamented with an embossed motif of quatrefoils and greek crosses. The walls of the chancel and sanctuary are of plaster and painted a light green color. Illuminating the sanctuary are two abat-jour clerestory windows on the north wall.

An outstanding feature of St. Philip's Church are its windows of colored glass. Most fenestration in the church, including transoms and clerestories, is of colored cathedral glass. The main window type is narrow, its lancet arch filled with very simple tracery of a tripartite pattern. The two westernmost windows on either side of the nave, are filled with leaded stained and painted glass windows, as is the central lancet window on the east wall, dedicated to the Reverend H.A. Duboc, St. Philip's first rector. The central window of the north wall, once cathedral glass, has been replaced by a modern stained glass window. All original windows were locally produced, designed and installed in the church by craftsmen of Trenton.

Alterations

The appearance of St. Philip's Church remains basically as it was at the time of its construction. At an unknown time, the original coal-burning furnace was altered to gas operation. In 1928, at the thirtieth anniversary of the church's completion, a stone cross was erected at the apex of the western gable. The enclosed stairway of wood was added to the south facade in 19523. Doorways to basement and sacristy had been included in the church when it was first built, so no structural changes were made to the building itself. In 1970, new wooden doors were added to the east entrance, and at the same time, the interior was redecorated, carpeting installed and the original eight light fixtures with milkglass shades were replaced with modern hanging brass lighting. The original and operative pump organ was sold and a small electric organ took its place. The vestibule was renovated in 1976 because of a leaking roof. Its interior was panelled, and a vinyl covering installed on its floor. The entire church structure also received a new roof of asphalt shingles. Finally, in 1978 the center window on the north wall was replaced with a modern, leaded stained glass window.

Condition

St. Philip's Church is in excellent condition on the interior and exterior, and is well maintained by the congregation.

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<u>Site</u>

The church is positioned on a small, triangular lot, bordered on all sides by narrow streets. It is in the business district, surrounded by a bank, a hardware store and various business offices.

Present Status

The building still functions as St. Philip's Episcopal Church with a small congregation. It shares its rector with the Episcopal Church in nearby Chillicothe. Currently there are no redevelopment plans that would affect the structure, although its location on a tiny isolated lot among intersecting streets makes its position somewhat tenuous.

FOOTNOTES

- 1. Carolyn Lenhart, personal interview, 22 January 1979.
- 2. William Ray Denslow. <u>Centennial History of Grundy County, Missouri, 1839-1939</u>. (Trenton, Mo: William Ray Denslow, 1939.) p. 338.
- 3. Carolyn Lenhart, personal interview.
- 4. Ibid.
- 5. Ibid.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1898-1899	BUILDER/ARCI	HITECT Unknown	
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PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X_RELIGION
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Trenton, Missouri, is significant as a fine example of parish church architecture of the late nineteenth century in the Gothic Revival style, and as a symbol of the religious life in a small country town.

The town of Trenton, where St. Philip's is located, began its history before the formation of the county of Grundy in 1841. The first settler in the area was Levi Moore who, with his family, founded Moore's Settlement or Landing, as it was variously known, on the Grand River in 1833 or 1834.² The following year, the land where Tremton was to be located was purchased by William Cochran at the government price of \$1.25 an acre. He constructed a general store, a pretentious building for the times, with limeplastered walls of hewn logs instead of the usual notched rough logs with mud chinking. The store and land was purchased by James S. Lomax, who with his brotherin-law ran the store for many years. The village soon became known as Lomax's Store. In 1839, however, a post office was established with Lomax as post master, under the name of Bluff Grove. 3 The country was gradually populated by families from Howard and Randolph Counties, and Bluff Grove commanded most of the trade of the surrounding In 1841, the county of Grundy, named for the Honorable Felix Grundy of Texas, the Attorney General of the United States, was organized out of Livingston County. A struggle began immediately between Bluff Grove and a settlement in Lincoln township for the location of the county seat. Lincoln claimed the honor by virtue of its location in the geographical center of the new county, while Bluff Grove urged its age, population and natural location on the river. A commission of impartial citizens from adjoining countles was selected to decide the issue. They chose land in Lincoln in the exact center of the county. Unfortunately, there was no settlement anywhere near the site and "the citizens of Bluff Grove strenuously objected to locating the county seat in the woods, "6 so the struggle continued. James Lomax finally decided the issue by donating eighty acres of land in Bluff Grove to the county free of charge. It was divided into town blocks and lots the same year. Renamed Trenton in 1842, probably after the city of Trenton, New Jersey, 8 the town was renowned for the irregularity of its streets and blocks. A Trenton paper of 1874 described the legendary platting of the town by its founding father:

In the center of what he intended for the public square he set a barrel of whiskey on end, took the head out and hung tin cups around the outer edge to accomodate the weary careworn traveler. The citizens coming from all points of the compass...soon made the paths very plain and buildings began to be reared on each of the thoroughfares. So...Trenton wears the appearance of a huge spinning wheel with the rim knocked off. No trace of the barrel remains.

The growth of Trenton was gradual until the coming of the railroad in 1871 revolutionized the town. The population in 1870 totalled 945, but had grown to 3,370 in 1880

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Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

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and by the time St. Philip's Church was built in 1898, it had swelled to well over 5,000 persons. 10

The Episcopal Church in Trenton probably received its start in the early 1880's when Bishop Tuttle of St. Louis held services at the Presbyterian Church there while visiting in the town. The Episcopal congregation was formally established in 1893 under the name of St. Philip's Mission. Reverend Henry A. Duboc, Archdeacon of the Northern Deanery of the diocese of Western Missouri, was engaged to hold services on every alternate Sunday at the Masonic Temple. But in July 1895, Reverend Duboc took up residence in the town, and became the motivating force towards the church's expansion. After April 1897, he was conducting services every Sunday. 12 A Year later, his congregation had increased to the point where even the new hall they had leased above a store became too cramped. 13 Rev. Duboc organized a building committee and it was decided to purchase a lot at the corner of East 9th and Halliburton Streets for the erection of a church. The building, set at the juncture of three streets, near the center of the business district, was a product of the joint efforts of the entire congregation and many of the townspeople as well. It was designed in the format of the English parish church, an influential type of Episcopal architecture of the period. The favored type of church was not the newer Protestant design which placed the congregation in close proximity to the minister, and which to the Episcopalians seemed symptomatic of the secularization of the Church. 14 They preferred instead the parish church, like St. Philip's, with a smaller, lower and more sheltered chancel area where the clergy and the service was withdrawn from the worshippers.

The cornerstone of St. Philip's was laid with appropriate ceremonies on September 24, 1898. Reverend Ducoc expressed to the building committee his hope that they be "as choice as possible" about the stone, wishing that it be marble or granite, with raised rather than incised letters. He stepped into a local stonecutter's workshop one day and departed with the promise of a fine block of Rutland marble to be cut, polished and presented by the craftsman to the church at no cost. 15 The cornerstone ceremony was conducted by E.R. Atwell of Kansas City, Bishop of the West Missouri diocese. After a brief prayer service, he delivered an address which "tended to impress those present with the fact that the Episcopal denomination was seeking to elevate and perpetuate the cause of Christ throughout the land and...that all bodies of Christian workers could co-operate in the grand work and still retain their identity." Accordingly, a collection was taken among the people of Trenton, of all denominations, resulting in a very large number of donations and pledges. 16 The cornerstone, filled with memorials of the church and memorabilia of the town, was then sealed. In addition to contributions of the congregation and the town, Reverend Duboc had succeeded in obtaining a loan of seven hundred dollars from the New York Building Commission. It was given, however, under the condition that all previous indebtedness be paid before the money was received. A year later, Reverend Duboc was still having difficulty

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collecting payment on the numerous pledges and subscriptions made by the townspeople. 17 He also had trouble with the construction of the building itself, as he had not issued the work under general contract but decided instead with the aid of the building committee, to oversee the work himself. The congregation began an energetic fundraising effort; the ladies of the church even presented a production of the "Mikado" at the Grand Opera House in Chillicothe which was "liberally patronized [by] a number of Chillicothe's best people." 19

St. Philip's Church was opened for the first time on November 8, 1899. The service was again conducted by Bishop Atwell, assisted by Reverend Duboc. A local newspaper reported the event: "The pretty little stone building that the people of [St. Philip's] church erected this summer was thrown open...The Episcopal people are proud of their church and well may they be." The church was estimated to have cost a total of \$2,500.21

While at Trenton, Reverend Duboc was a leading force in educational circles as well as in religious life. He organized an English history class for the townspeople, instructing them in his own special method of memorization. The principals of his theories were published in a book entitled <u>Outlines of English History with Memory Formulas</u>. It was dedicated to the "Members of my Shakespearean Circle," the organization which had evolved out of his class and which is still active today. Dedicated to the study of Shakespeare's plays as well as English history, it is the oldest continuous organization in Trenton.

Reverend Duboc remained as rector of St. Philip's Church only one year after the completion of the church and resigned in October of 1900. At his death nine years later, the congregation of St. Philip's erected a stained glass window in his memory, the only memorial window in the church. Reverend Duboc's successors held services in the building until 1906. Because of a dwindling number of parishioners, it was closed for the next ten years but reopened in 1916. Three years later services were again suspended until 1923 when Archdeacon Albert Watkins travelled to Trenton on alternate Sundays. During the 1930's services were observed only once a month. 25 At the present time, St. Philip's shares its rector with the Grace Episcopal Church in Chillicothe.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The St. Philip's Episcopal Church is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture" and "Society."

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FOOTNOTES

- 1. Writer's Program of the Work Projects Administration, Charles van Ravenswaay, ed. Missouri, A Guide to the Show-Me State (New York: Duell, Slaan and Pearce, 1941), p. 475.
- 2. James Everett Ford, A History of Grundy County, Treating of its Transformation from the Heart of the Wilderness of Yesterday to the Heart of the Mighty Nation of Today (Trenton Missouri: News Publishing Company, 1908), p. 15.
- 3. Ibid, p. 20.
- 4. Writers Program, p. 475.
- 5. Ford, p. 13.
- 6. <u>Ibid</u>. p. 47.
- 7. <u>Ibid</u>. p. 49
- 8. Writer's Program, p. 475.
- 9. Ford, p. 117. Article taken from the Gallatin Democrat, April 1874.
- 10. <u>Ibid</u>. p. 118.
- 11. William Ray Denslow, <u>Centennial History of Grundy County, Missouri 1839-1939</u>. (Trenton, Missouri: William Ray Denslow, 1939). p. 337.
- 12. <u>Ibid</u>.
- 13. "Interesting Guild Meeting," Trenton Weekly Republican, 20 January, 1898.
- 14. Phoebe B. Stanton, <u>The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture</u> (Baltimore, Maryland: John Hopkins Press, 1968), pp. 10-11.
- 15. "A Pleasant Incident," <u>Trenton Weekly Republican</u>, 22 September, 1898, p. 5.
- 16. "Cornerstone is Laid," Trenton Weekly Republican, 29 September, 1898, p. 5.
- 17. "The New Church," Trenton Weekly Republican, 14 September, 1898, p. 3.
- 18. "New Episcopal Church," Trenton Weekly Republican, 26 October, 1899.

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- 19. "The Mikado at Chillicothe," Trenton Weekly Republican, 18 August, 1898.
- 20. "New Church Opened," Trenton Weekly Repbulican, 9 November, 1899, p. 2.
- 21. "New Church Opened," Trenton Weekly Tribune, 9 November, 1899, p. 5.
- 22. Trenton Weekly Republican, 14 April, 1898, p. 5.
- 23. Reverend H.A. Duboc, <u>Outlines of English History with Memory Formulas: Dates Permanently Fixed in the Mind without the Use of Figures (Kansas City, Tiernan-Havens Printing Company, 1900). This system of association replaced the numerals of each historical date by what Reverend Duboc termed "numerical consonants that express a meaning in harmony with the subject."</u>
- 24. Carolyn Lenhart, personal interview, 22 January 1979.
- 25. Deslow, p. 338.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRA	APHICAL REFEREN	NCES	
1. "Cornerstone is I	Laid." <u>Trenton Weekly</u>	Republican, 29 September	er 1898, p. 5.
2. Denslow, William	Ray. <u>Centennial Hist</u>	ory of Grundy County, Mi	ssouri 1839-1939.
3. Duboc, Rev. H.A. nently Fixed in t printing Co., 190	the Mind Without the U	listory with Memory Formu se of Figures. Kansas Ci	las: Dates Perma- ty: Tiernan-Havens
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- 4. Ford, James Everett. A History of Grundy County, Treating of its Transformation from the Heart of the Wilderness of Yesterday to the Heart of the Mighty Nation of Today. Trenton, Mo.: News Publishing Co., 1908.
- 5. "Interesting Guild Meeting." Trenton Weekly Republican, 20 January 1898.
- 6. Lenhart, Carolyn G. Personal interview, 22 January 1979.
- 7. "The Mikado at Chillicothe." Trenton Weekly Republican, 18 August 1898.
- 8. "The New Church." Trenton Weekly Republican, 14 September 1898.
- 9. "New Church Opened." Trenton Weekly Republican, 9 November 1899, p. 2.
- 10. "New Church Opened." Trenton Weekly Tribune, 9 November 1899, p. 5.
- 11. "New Episcopal Church." <u>Trenton Weekly Republican</u>, 26 October 1899.
- 12. "A Pleasant Incident." Trenton Weekly Republican, 22 September 1898.
- 13. Stanton, Phoebe B. The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture. Baltimore, Md.: John Hopkins Press, 1968.
- 14. Trenton Weekly Republican, 14 April 1898, p. 5.
- 15. van Ravenswaay, Charles. ed. <u>Missouri, A Guide to the Show-Me State</u>. New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1941.

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Jefferson City,

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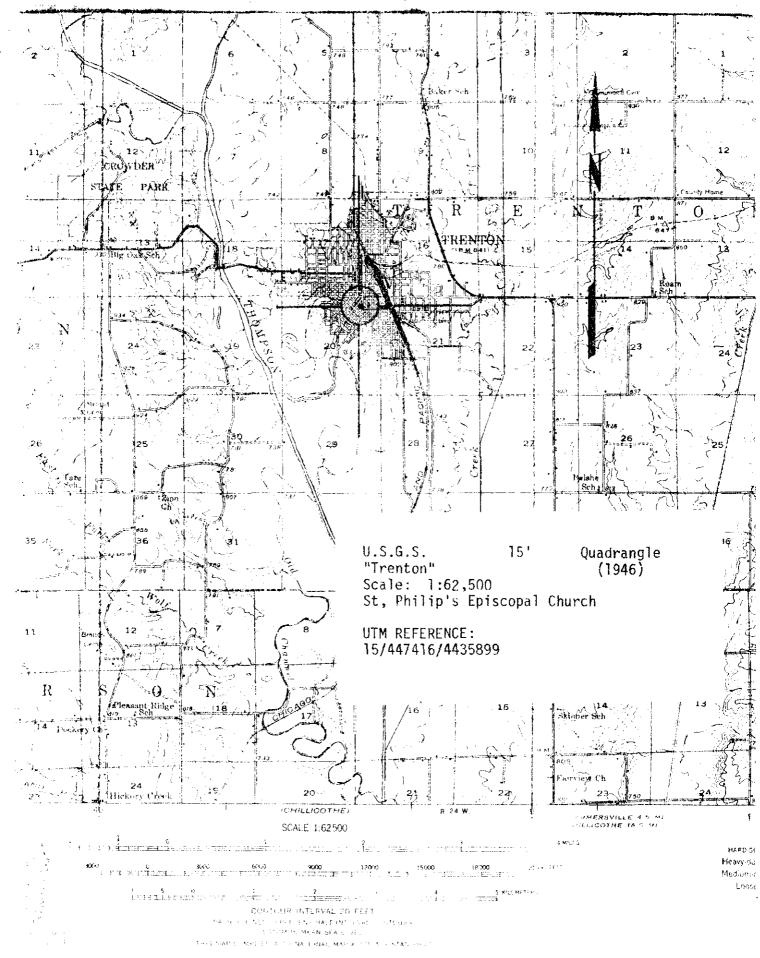


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ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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2.	Carolyn G. Lenhart 313 Ridgeway Avenue Trenton	816-359-3 364 Missouri 64683
3.	James M. Denny, editor and State contact person Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 176	314-751-4096



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ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

#1

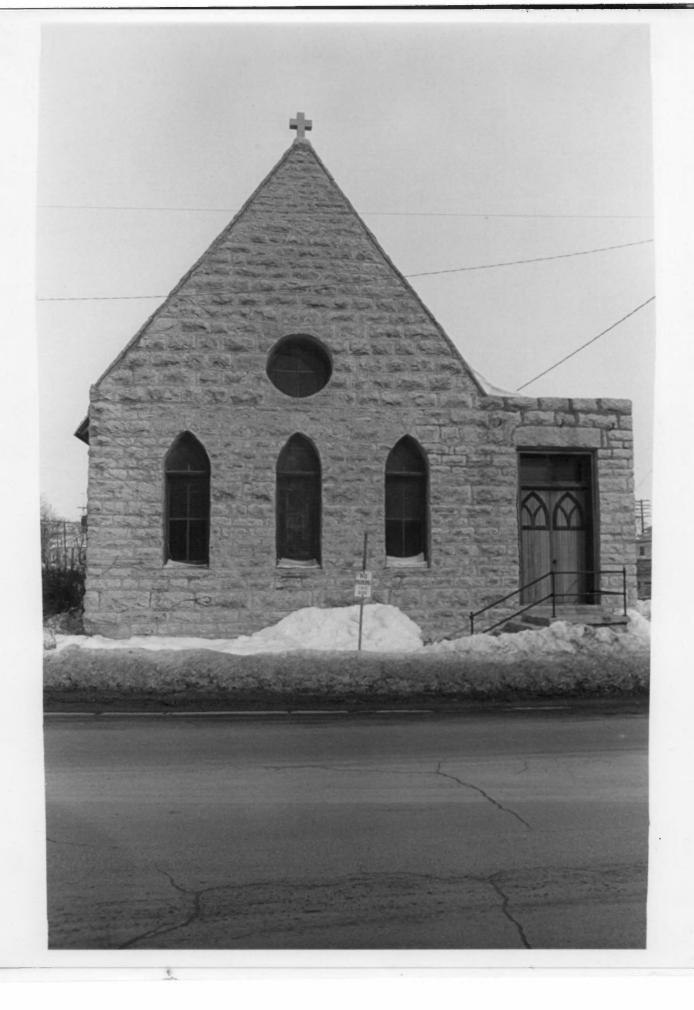
Trenton, Missouri

Neg. Loc.:

Photographer: Janice R. Cameron

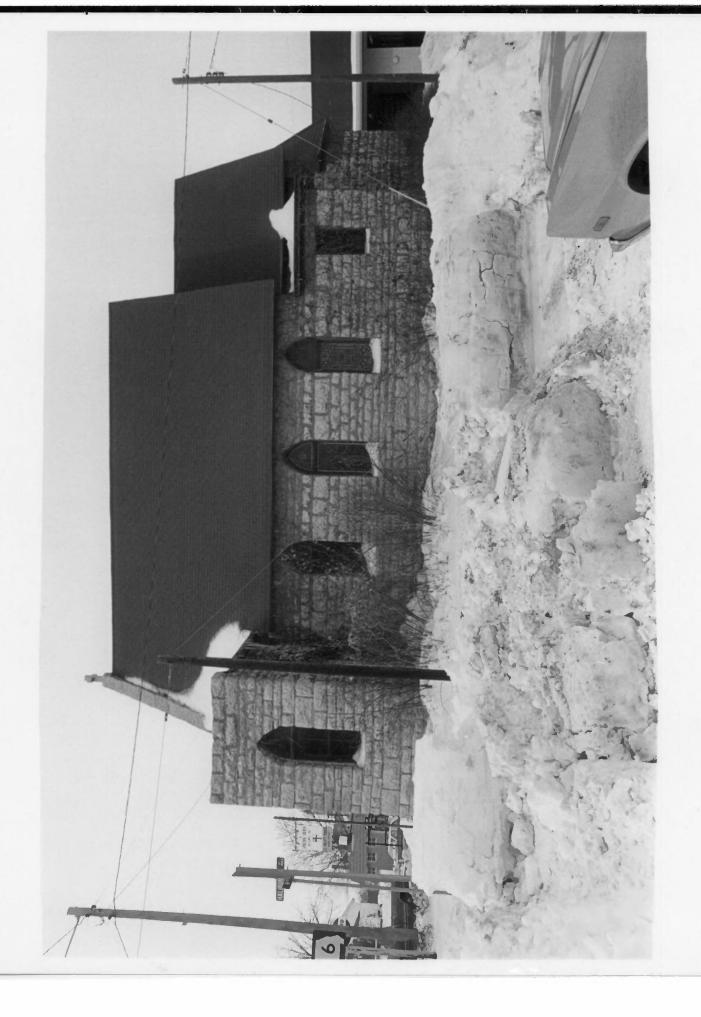
22 January 1979
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65101

General view from the east.



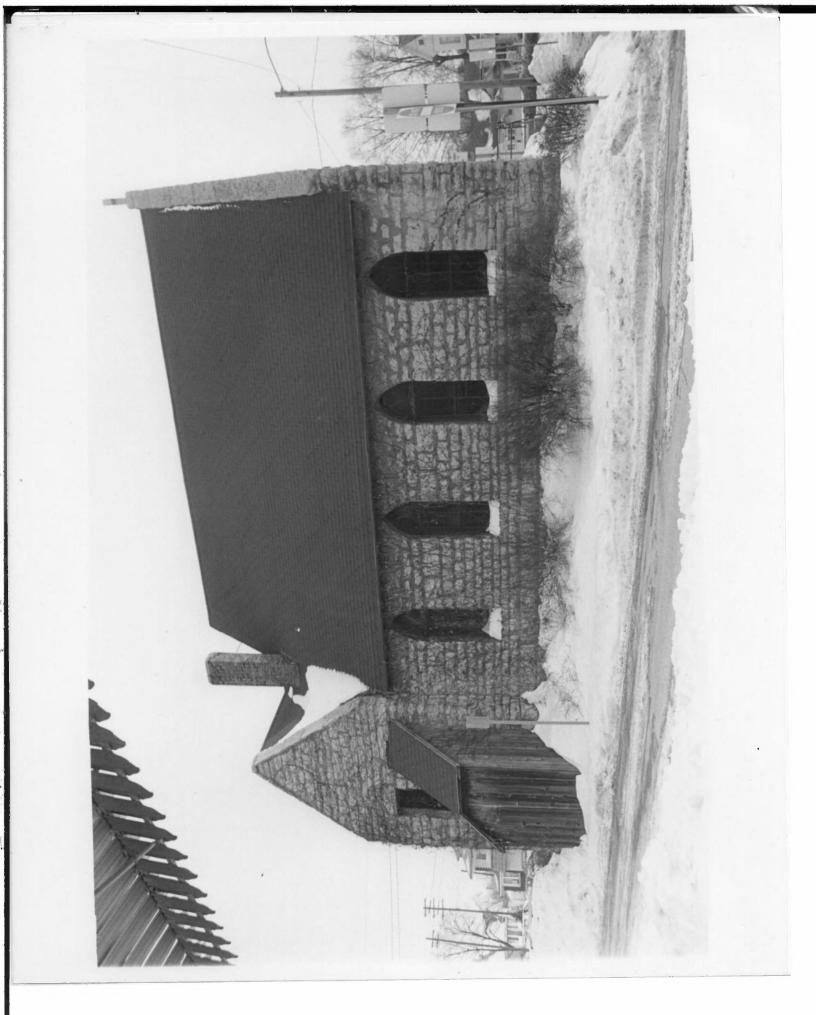
ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Trenton, Missouri
Photographer: Janice R. Cameron
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General view from the north.



ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH #3
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General view from the south.



ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

#4

Trenton, Missouri

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General view from the west.



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General view from the southwest, showing stairway addition.



ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

#6

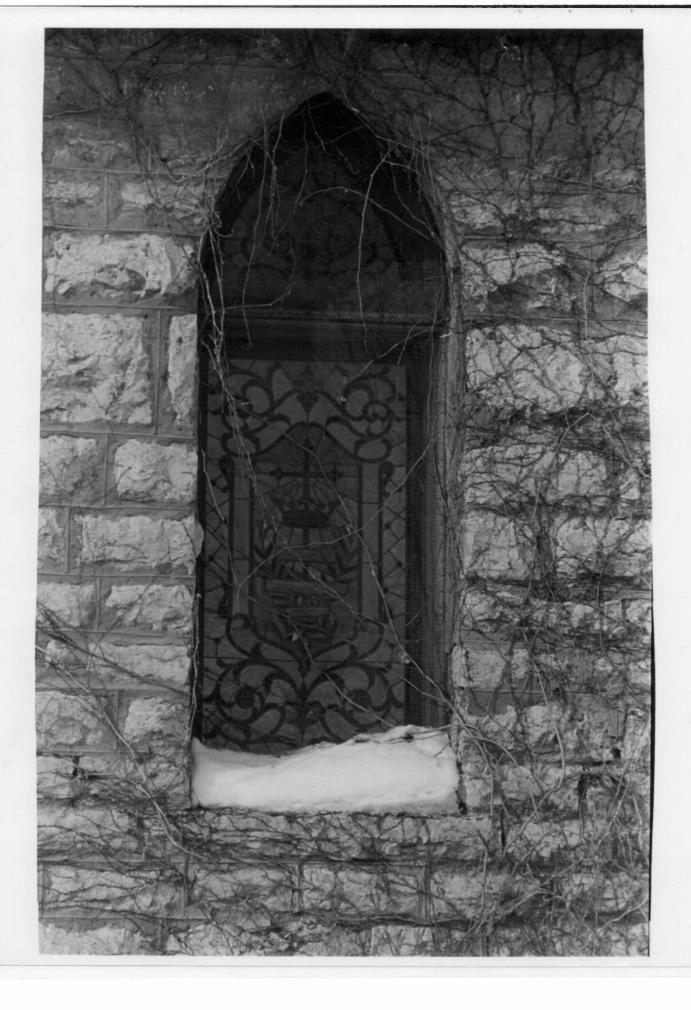
Trenton, Missouri

Photographer: Janice R. Cameron

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One of the original stained and painted glass windows.



ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Trenton, Missouri

Photographer: Janice R. Cameron 22 January 1979 Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, MO 65101

Interior view to the west showing chancel archway and polygonal apse.



ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH #8
Trenton, Missouri
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Interior view to the east.



ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH #9
Trenton, Missouri
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Interior view to the south,



ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Trenton, Missouri
Photographer: William O. Lenhart
22 January 1979
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Interior view to the northwest into the chancel. Note abat-jour windows and organ chamber.



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Photographer: William O. Lenhart
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Interior view to the southwest into chancel, showing entrance to sacristy and caryed pulbit and frontal.



EXTRA PHOTOS



